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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 24th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. HAMBURGER (Netherlands)

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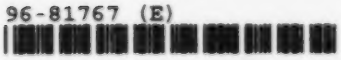

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 97: ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (continued)

(b) SPECIAL SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF AN OVERALL REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 21 (continued) (A/C.2/51/L.9)

1. Ms. CHAVES (Costa Rica), introducing on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/51/L.9, entitled "Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21", said that the work of the session must be undertaken on the basis of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and in full respect, in particular, of principle 7 on the common but differentiated responsibilities of States.

2. The special session should not attempt to renegotiate Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration, the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests, or other intergovernmental agreements in the field of sustainable development. Discussion should concentrate on commitments already given and on the implementation of Agenda 21.

3. It was also important for Governments to assist developing countries, particularly the least developed among them, in participating fully in the special session and its preparatory process, and to make timely contributions to the Trust Fund for Support of the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The major groups should also be involved in the preparations for and the work of the special session.

4. Finally, in his report for the special session, the Secretary-General should give special consideration to poverty, education, the transfer of technology, and trade and environment.

AGENDA ITEM 96: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION (continued) (A/51/59, A/51/73, A/51/87, A/51/120, A/51/127, A/51/138, A/51/208-S/1996/543, A/51/210, A/51/295, A/51/314, A/51/357, A/51/375, A/51/462-S/1996/831 and A/51/529)

(b) AGENDA FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)

(i) AGENDA FOR DEVELOPMENT (A/51/168 and Corr.1, A/51/208-S/1996/543 and A/51/319)

(ii) RENEWAL OF THE DIALOGUE ON STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PARTNERSHIP (A/51/211-S/1996/551 and A/51/485)

5. Ms. CHAVES (Costa Rica), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, recalled that the General Assembly had decided on 16 September 1996 to continue its work on the elaboration of the agenda for development and to focus its efforts on concluding that exercise during its fifty-first session. Although

the Group of 77 and China had supported that decision, they believed that the quality of the final document could not be sacrificed because of the pressure of time. Even though agreement had been reached after lengthy and arduous negotiations on the first two chapters of the agenda for development, the substantive content of the third chapter still needed to be strengthened. In that connection, due consideration should be given to General Assembly resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996, which addressed a number of institutional issues that should not be taken up again in chapter III.

6. The United Nations had been established in 1945 not only to assure international peace and security but also with the primary objective of promoting the necessary conditions for the economic and social development of the developing countries. In the view of the Group of 77 and China, the second aspect was just as important as the first and should also be treated as a priority issue by the Organization. The agenda for development should therefore not only address the legitimate aspirations and needs of the developing countries but also give due consideration to the integrated follow-up to the commitments given and the programmes of action adopted, at the highest political level, during the conferences and summits held under the auspices of the United Nations during the 1990s. After the adoption of the agenda, it would also be important for the Ad-Hoc Open-ended Working Group on an Agenda for Development to be entrusted with the task of ensuring the follow-up, review and evaluation of the Agenda and the commitments given thereunder.

7. Concerning the issue of the renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership, the Group of 77 and China wished to draw attention to the problems being created by the globalization of the international economy, which, while it had many positive effects, could result in the marginalization of large groups of people or even countries. Regional cooperation and integration therefore needed to be built on the basis of openness towards the rest of the world economy so that it did not lead to a fragmented system of trading blocs and increased protectionism. Similarly, the growing interdependence among nations suggested the need for defining the rules of the game on a more democratic basis. Those issues should be addressed by a process of continuous dialogue among all the countries concerned.

8. The Group of 77 and China shared the view expressed by the Secretary-General in paragraph 6 of document A/51/485, namely, that the preparations for the high-level dialogue decided upon by the General Assembly should not only involve the United Nations and the concerned organizations of the system, but should also actively engage other actors in development. They also supported the recommendation contained in paragraph 7 of the same document that the dialogue should be deferred until the latter part of the fifty-second session.

9. Mr. KHAN (Chief of the Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs Branch of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) said that there was indeed a connection between the elaboration of the agenda for development and the proposal to hold a high-level dialogue on related issues in the General Assembly, which must be understood as a process and not as an isolated event. The Secretary-General proposed that the dialogue should be deferred until the latter part of the fifty-second session of the General

Assembly because the workload was likely to be very heavy during the first six months of 1997, owing to the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly and the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council. The proposal would also give all participants enough time to prepare adequately for the dialogue.

10. Mr. MURPHY (Ireland), speaking on behalf of the European Union as well as Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, said that it was important to finish the negotiations on the agenda for development without delay. The European Union was concerned at the slow progress being made in the reform of the United Nations and was convinced that it was urgent to achieve progress in the economic and social fields. The adoption of General Assembly resolution 50/227 was a major step forward and that text should serve as the basis for the elaboration of chapter III of the agenda.

11. Since all aspects of development had been examined in depth since 1992, it would be counter-productive at the current stage officially to request further inputs from other components of the United Nations system or other institutions. The European Union hoped that the negotiations would be restarted as soon as possible with a view to their completion well before the end of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly. Any delay could compromise the entire enterprise.

12. Mrs. BAI Yongjie (China) said that China attached great importance to the negotiations on the agenda for development; the developing countries had taken the initiative concerning the agenda and had actively participated in the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on an Agenda for Development. The text to be adopted would be meaningful only if it promoted international cooperation for development, facilitated the fulfilment of the commitments undertaken and facilitated the sustainable growth and development of the developing countries. The agenda therefore must be action-oriented.

13. Her delegation hoped that the parties concerned would intensify their consultations and display flexibility and pragmatism in order to reach a consensus without delay.

14. Mr. MARCH (Australia), speaking on behalf of his own country as well as of Canada and New Zealand, recalled that three important considerations had prompted the United Nations to elaborate an agenda for development: the need to rethink the concept of development at the end of the cold war, the need to revitalize the United Nations in the economic and social fields and the need to define a strategy and policy priorities for United Nations development organs and oversight bodies.

15. The negotiations had progressed to the stage where there was consensus on the first two chapters of an agenda for development, and the process which had led to the adoption of General Assembly resolution 50/227 should greatly facilitate the elaboration of chapter III. The delegations of Australia, Canada and New Zealand therefore supported the many delegations calling for the expeditious completion of the work on the agenda.

16. Mr. KUDRYAVTSEV (Russian Federation) said that his delegation endorsed the renewal of a constructive dialogue on strengthening international development cooperation through a partnership which would reaffirm the central role of the United Nations and take due account of the interests of all groups of States. All States stood to benefit, at a time when globalization and interdependence were increasing and all actors and partners in development must help to ensure the stability of the world economy and sustainable economic growth.

17. His delegation took note of the note by the Secretary-General in response to General Assembly resolution 50/122 (A/51/485) and agreed that the high-level dialogue envisaged in the resolution, the focus of the discussions and the preparation by the Secretary-General of further recommendations for enhancing the dialogue should be decided in the context of the outcome of the work on an agenda for development.

18. The Russian delegation hoped that the negotiations in the Ad Hoc Working Group would be concluded before the end of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly. The agenda for development should focus not only on substantive problems relating to development cooperation, but also on the institutional machinery for such cooperation. A substantial portion of the document had been finalized in the negotiations and it would be inappropriate at the current stage to reject what had been accepted; any new idea or proposal should be incorporated in the agreed provisions in order to avoid prolonging the negotiations.

19. Mr. WINNICK (United States of America) said that with the end of the ideological struggle which had characterized the cold war, the international community had come to agree on the need to improve the quality of life of all peoples of the world. That consensus had found concrete expression in the declarations and programmes of action of the major United Nations conferences, the themes of which - economic growth, the environment, population, human rights, social development, the advancement of women and human settlements - now should be articulated in the agenda for development, a fundamental document which should guide development worldwide on the eve of the twenty-first century.

20. At the same time, it was crucial - and that was the objective of chapter III of the agenda - to redefine the role of the United Nations in implementing the outcome of the major conferences and promoting sustainable development worldwide. Although the United Nations was one of many institutions with a development-related mandate, it had a unique role as the universal political body.

21. However, despite all the efforts made in recent years, the agenda had not yet been completed. Every effort should be made to finalize it promptly, whether in informal consultations or working groups or through other innovative approaches. The United States intended actively to contribute to the successful conclusion of the negotiations in the Ad Hoc Working Group.

22. Mr. BARNALA (India) said that when the developing countries had taken the initiative on the elaboration of an agenda for development, there had been reason to believe that the end of East-West rivalry would provide an opportunity for enhanced cooperation for the benefit of all mankind and that the United

Nations would be able to focus on development rather than on peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance.

23. However, although the cycle of major United Nations conferences had led national Governments and the international community to undertake far-reaching commitments, it had coincided with a period of aid fatigue on the part of donor countries, when the efficacy of international development cooperation was being questioned, protectionism was resurfacing on social and environmental pretexts and the attention of the international community was shifting from questions of trade access, preferences and financial flows to the reordering of priorities and resource allocation.

24. In the light of all those obstacles, the agenda for development had, at its current stage, been reduced to a summary of the commitments undertaken at the various conferences. Issues relating to the institutional framework, as yet unresolved, must be viewed not in isolation but, rather, in the context of the first two chapters, which meant in the context of the commitments to be undertaken. Efficiency and budgetary constraints, however important, must not prevail to the detriment of the cause of development, particularly since the reform process already was well under way, as illustrated by the adoption of General Assembly resolution 50/227, the work of the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the work of the High-Level Working Group on the Strengthening of the United Nations System.

25. Lastly, the agenda must be completed as soon as possible; otherwise, its adoption could be overtaken by the special session of the General Assembly, to be held in June. In that connection, the Assembly had already been forced to postpone the high-level dialogue on globalization and development.

26. Recalling the General Assembly's decision, at its fiftieth session, to renew the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership, he said that, to ensure that that dialogue was fruitful, it was necessary to examine themes which were on the cutting edge of international economic relations, as the Secretary-General had suggested in his report (A/50/480, para. 10). Since the high-level dialogue was linked to the outcome of the work on the agenda, the United Nations could consider the possibility, if the text was not finalized soon, of promoting dialogue between developed and developing countries in other ways, such as between the Group of Seven and the Group of 77 or the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

27. Mr. KHAN (Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) said he was pleased that the representative of India had recalled the proposal, made by the Secretary-General the preceding year, to base the development dialogue on cutting-edge themes which were not already being considered in other forums. It was on that basis that the Secretariat had chosen, as the first topic of discussion, the social and economic impact of globalization and interdependence, which had not yet been considered elsewhere and for which the General Assembly seemed an appropriate forum. A high-level dialogue would be particularly useful in giving new impetus to the entire system and yielding a better understanding of the globalization process.

28. With respect to the second proposal, to the effect that regional groupings should be consulted on the matter, those entities were responsible for taking the necessary decisions, although the United Nations had a role to play in stimulating dialogue between the various regional and interregional organizations.

29. Ms. AMOAH (Ghana) said that, at a time when developing countries faced multiple problems, and when the essential link between development, on the one hand, and peace and security, on the other, had been universally recognized, the increasing marginalization of poor countries in the international economy was a dangerous trend, as noted in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the economic communiqué issued after the summit meeting which the Group of Seven had held in Lyon in June 1996. While it was currently agreed that economic globalization and the laws of the market had become the new rules of the game, the conditions in which the game was played were far from equitable and had aggravated the economic disparities between developed and developing countries. Nevertheless, sustained economic growth and sustainable development were global in nature and required global solutions, which could only be furnished by international cooperation.

30. Whereas all of the States Members of the United Nations agreed on the goals of development, they had not reached consensus on how to achieve them. In that context, the agenda for development took on special importance as a programme for achieving development for all through strengthened international cooperation. The text should provide a comprehensive framework for the follow-up of major United Nations conferences and for the implementation of the commitments entered into at those events. It was therefore important that the text should be finalized before the end of the General Assembly's fifty-first session. Moreover, she hoped that the agenda would not suffer the fate of similar United Nations initiatives which had contained all the ingredients for success, but had remained unimplemented owing to a lack of political will. For that reason, after the agenda was adopted, the United Nations must continue to ensure a constructive dialogue on development issues and must be strengthened to enable it to enhance international economic cooperation for development.

31. Mr. KAID (Yemen) said that he supported the statement made by Costa Rica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and recalled that development, which had become the primary focus of international concern, had been discussed at a number of major United Nations conferences in recent years. In order to be effective, those conferences must be followed up with specific actions.

32. Each State was chiefly responsible for its own development. Nonetheless, the international community must assist developing countries by promoting the transfer of technology, eliminating protectionist measures and tariff barriers, opening world markets to exports from developing countries and facilitating capital movements towards those countries. More than ever, it must keep its promises and implement the resolutions adopted at major international conferences in order to help developing countries, all of which had suffered from the globalization and liberalization of the world economy in the early 1990s. Consequently, the decision of the seven most industrialized countries, taken at their meeting in Lyon, to continue to provide development assistance could only be seen as a positive factor, and he hoped that that decision would take the form of concrete measures.

33. Since its unification, Yemen, which was one of the least developed countries, had faced many problems which hindered its development and which were attributable, on the one hand, to the difficulties inherent in the transition to a market economy (carried out with the help of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund), and, on the other, to the natural disasters which had caused considerable damage throughout the country. To facilitate structural adjustment, enhance the role of the private sector and stabilize the economy, the Government of Yemen had taken measures costing $US 4 billion, which it could not finance without the help of the international community. Yemen therefore wished to thank the friendly countries and the United Nations bodies which had lent it their support.

34. Mr. SUAMIN (Indonesia) said that he supported the statement made by the representative of Costa Rica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and that Indonesia continued to attach great importance to the agenda for development and the renewal of dialogue, which were indispensable for revitalizing international cooperation for sustainable development and the eradication of poverty. The agenda was essential for enhancing, in the new era of economic globalization and interdependence, the central role of the United Nations system in development, while imparting greater coherence and effectiveness to integrated development measures.

35. Despite the efforts made and the constructive spirit of partnership shown by many countries, much remained to be done if the agenda was to be completed as soon as possible. While consensus had been reached on the first two chapters, the negotiations on the third chapter, which dealt with institutional issues and follow-up, were still at an initial stage. The efforts to strengthen interaction between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization were one of the factors that hampered progress on that chapter. However, failure to finalize the text in the near future would cause the international community to question the seriousness of Member States' efforts to make development their highest priority. Furthermore, work on the agenda should not progress in spurts, but should constitute an ongoing process which, once its objectives were established, would enable attention to be focused on ways and means of implementing it.

36. That work should be carried out concurrently with the international community's efforts to renew the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership, which was the only means of achieving peace, development and prosperity. Such a dialogue should not be confined to the United Nations system, but should be extended to all forums which sought to promote development and international cooperation. His delegation therefore welcomed the decision to hold a high-level dialogue on the social and economic impact of globalization and interdependence, and agreed with the Secretary-General that all of the actors in the development process should take part in that dialogue.

37. Mr. AL-KHAJA (Bahrain) said that economic development was the cornerstone of prosperity, stability and security in the world. Security and economic integration at the global level were developed through the establishment of a dialogue between rich and developing countries with a view to elaborating a new strategy for settling outstanding problems. To that end, the international

community should pool its efforts, particularly within the United Nations, which remained the principal institution where countries could strengthen their political and economic relations. The agenda for development, the first draft of which had been taken up by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, therefore demonstrated the desire of the international community to lay down rules at the global level for promoting sustainable and comprehensive development based on shared responsibilities.

38. His Government attached great importance to economic development, which it considered the first step towards comprehensive development. Efforts at both the national and the international level should be aimed at creating favourable conditions for the development of the world economy, due account being taken of the individual situation and priorities of each country. His delegation also believed that comprehensive development took place against a background of human development, which explained the considerable emphasis it placed on human resources and the fight against unemployment.

39. It was necessary to promote growth and sustainable development in a free economic world order, as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development had advocated at its ninth session. The United Nations and its various organs had an important role to play in that field and should therefore enjoy the full support of all members of the international community in order to strengthen security, stability and the spirit of cooperation at the global level.

40. Mr. GERUS (Belarus) said that his delegation was pleased that the General Assembly had decided on 16 September 1996 that the Ad Hoc Working Group would continue its work at the fifty-first session with a view to concluding negotiations on the agenda for development. In parallel with the Working Group's effort, it would also be useful to take advantage of the Second Committee's deliberations on that question in order to speed up the process of putting the text into final form. The agenda would define a real development assistance strategy for the Organization.

41. The discussions in the Working Group at the fiftieth session of the General Assembly had shown that States were aware that they must act in unison to settle the world's most urgent problems, and they had resolved to develop and strengthen international cooperation for development assistance. His Government appreciated the efforts of the Group of 77, the European Union, the United States of America, Canada, the Russian Federation and other States that had taken part in the debate for reaching a consensus in complex situations. His delegation also noted with satisfaction the constructive proposal of Japan, a number of which had been incorporated into the text.

42. It had been possible to reach a consensus on several dozen paragraphs during the current session, but much remained to be done to elaborate a final text before its close. His delegation therefore believed that most of the meetings of the Ad Hoc Working Group should take place during the fifty-first session, even if such an approach were to incur additional costs. The degree of emphasis accorded to world problems and the mechanisms designed to resolve them changed over time, and there was a risk that if too much time was devoted to putting the final touches to the agenda for development, some of its already

agreed provisions would appear outdated even before the document was finally adopted.

43. As soon as the Working Group resumed its work, his delegation believed that it should assign priority status to Chapter III, which still contained a number of provisions enclosed in brackets, particularly with regard to international development cooperation, the role of the Organization therein and operational activities for development. It was particularly important to be more specific about the relations between the Economic and Social Council and the specialized agencies and to ensure that the links between the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization were strengthened, as envisaged by General Assembly resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields.

44. Mr. LAING (Belize) said that the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on an Agenda for Development had applied itself to codification of consensus on development norms emanating from the General Assembly and recent world conferences. It was important to remember that development was a complex and dynamic process calling for continuous and meaningful dialogue on the part of the international community. His delegation therefore proposed an annual special session of the General Assembly to evaluate progress in implementing the agenda for development, during which the state of the world would be assessed as was the practice at the annual G-7 meetings. If such sessions were held just before the start of the annual regular session of the General Assembly, and if they entailed the highest possible level of representation and participation, they would provide an opportunity to study priorities and fine-tune policy in the light of the prevailing economic situation. If in the course of such sessions certain questions on the Second Committee's agenda were considered at the highest level, the workload of the Second Committee would thereby be alleviated. In addition, at least one substantive aspect of development could be highlighted at each annual session, for example environment, children, women, population, and so on, in order to emphasize the complexity of development and the agenda for development.

45. The representative of India had made a similar proposal and his delegation associated itself with the views of the Belarusian delegation.

46. Mr. TANAKA (Japan) said that his delegation believed that the United Nations was in grave danger of losing contact with outside reality. Despite adopting many important documents and agreements on international cooperation for development, the Committee's debates had disregarded the private sector, non-governmental organizations and many new actors which had become involved in the development process. Moreover, the end of the cold war had rendered meaningless the notion of North-South conflict. The ever-increasing trend towards economic globalization had forced all States into partnership in order to promote economic cooperation and development.

47. In May his delegation had therefore submitted to the Ad Hoc Working Group a proposal for a new type of partnership not only between developed and developing countries but also between government, the private sector, the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions. Such partnership would be based on

shared responsibility between donor and recipient countries and would identify constructive goals for international cooperation. The proposal had not received many substantive responses because the Working Group had been too busy negotiating the text of the agenda for development. His Government had therefore organized on its own initiative a series of seminars, which had turned out to be very useful because all the participants had been able to express their views openly and without the constraint of political considerations.

48. At the current session of the General Assembly, as it had at the previous two sessions, his delegation intended to incorporate action-oriented elements in various draft resolutions by placing special priority on South-South cooperation, which was the pivotal element in promoting partnership. The resolutions Japan had sponsored in that area already had had tangible results, such as the voluntary fund for the promotion of South-South cooperation established within UNDP. The Japanese Government had already earmarked $2 million for that fund and intended to make full use of the other funds it had established within UNDP.

49. The second Tokyo Conference on International Development would be held in 1998. In the interim, his delegation planned to organize a series of seminars in New York, open to all Member States, for the purpose of facilitating the implementation of South-South cooperation projects. Japan would also participate in organizing the second Asia-Africa Forum, to be held in Thailand, and a preparatory meeting for the Tokyo Conference. Those initiatives would give impetus to South-South cooperation among the countries of Asia, Latin America and Africa.

50. Mr. KHAN (Department of Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) welcomed Japan's commitment to the promotion of South-South cooperation, as demonstrated by the significant resources it had made available. The seminars to be held in 1997 would undoubtedly strengthen the cooperative relationship among developing countries and clarify their objectives.

51. Mr. AMAZIANE (Morocco) said that it was important for the negotiations on the text of an agenda for development to reach a successful conclusion. It would be regrettable if no concrete action was taken to correct the negative trends in international economic relations which were holding back the development of the countries of the South.

52. Three basic principles were embodied in the agenda: the multidimensional nature of the development process, encompassing such elements as sustainable economic growth, social justice, good governance and respect for human rights, including equal rights for women; the need for an integrated approach at both the national and the international level, while ensuring their concomitance; and the responsibility of each agent of development, giving priority to national action. Each developing country should adopt macroeconomic policies conducive to domestic savings and investment, which had more impact on growth than external contributions, and should stress human resources development, education and health at the social level and respect for the rule of law at the political level.

53. The text before the Ad Hoc Working Group took note of the major challenges faced, particularly the risk of marginalization associated with globalization, the difficult transition in eastern Europe, the proliferation of ethnic and civil conflicts and environmental degradation. Morocco hoped that, as a result of the document to be adopted, the international community would respond through firm commitments and specific actions to the immense challenge of building a better world, and that the document would prove to be an effective programming tool in facilitating United Nations development activities.

54. Mr. TANASESCU (Romania) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Ireland on behalf of the European Union. The work on an agenda for development had been seriously delayed, and that delay could become more pronounced. The realities of the world economy had their own dynamic, which made the needs of the poorest countries ever more complex. Moreover, the evolution of concepts went hand in hand with economic realities, and development factors had in recent years been studied thoroughly in university and political circles throughout the world, with the result that the text might be outdated by the time it was adopted. Also, forms of international cooperation were diversifying on the regional and subregional levels, where economic integration was becoming a supplement to multilateral cooperation and assistance.

55. The delay, particularly regarding chapter III, was due to the lack of balance between seeking practical solutions and defining principles for change. During a period marked by the redefinition of the United Nations system, the principles guaranteeing its ongoing ability to adapt to conditions must be defined. Thus, the structure of chapter III must be simplified and the objectives more clearly defined, particularly regarding long-term reform and the interaction between the United Nations and other multilateral partners. That approach could also serve as a model to those national Governments which must reform their economic and social systems or redefine their relations with their foreign partners.

56. Mr. BOUCHER (Barbados), speaking on behalf of the States members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that his delegation associated itself with the statement of the representative of Costa Rica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. With the end of the cold war, the developing countries had envisaged a new era of international cooperation in the economic and social fields, which could be embodied in the agenda for development. That document would complement the Agenda for Peace by reinforcing the link between peace and development and would refocus the development priorities of the 1990s. It would also establish a framework for increased coordination among the specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system.

57. The negotiations on the text of an agenda for development should be a means to revitalize the idea of a consensus for development, which should reflect the realities of economic globalization and interdependence and underline the need for sustained international support for policy measures. But, despite fruitful consultations, the progress achieved had fallen short of expectations. In chapters I and II, 28 paragraphs remained outstanding, along with chapter III in its entirety. CARICOM believed that it was no longer the time to reopen the

definition of concepts which had long ago been accepted and translated into programmes of action.

58. Reform was the order of the day: working methods must be improved to make them more productive, for example, by closer consultations with the operational ministries of Member States, (finance and development) and by establishing more expert working groups. The objective was to make the United Nations an Organization capable of fulfilling the mandate entrusted to it, and staff reduction targets must not be allowed to harm that effort.

59. Without a supportive environment, commitments made at the major international conferences were meaningless. In some of the major donor countries, the amount of official development assistance was declining and remained far below the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product. Those resources, which were the tangible demonstration of international cooperation, were, however, essential if developing countries were to benefit from globalization.

60. Mr. KABA (Guinea) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement of the representative of Costa Rica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The elaboration of an agenda for development was rightly viewed as a major contribution by the United Nations to recognition of multilateral cooperation as a vector of development. Indeed, the United Nations was an irreplaceable tool in finding solutions to the many challenges in that area.

61. The effects of globalization, added to the critical situation of developing countries, particularly in Africa, which were poorly prepared for the era of competition and were exposed to shrinking financial flows, made it imperative to revitalize the dialogue for development among the partners. The economic and social repercussions of development should remain at the centre of the Organization's concerns and should be part of a coherent, comprehensive and realistic programme, supported both by national efforts and the genuine will of donor countries.

62. His delegation, like the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, believed that the time had come to translate into concrete action the joint conclusions of the various bodies with a view to the implementation and follow-up, by specialized agencies of the United Nations, of the decisions of the major international conferences held in recent years. He welcomed the results of the discussions held within the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on an Agenda for Development, especially with regard to the restructuring and revitalization of the Organization.

63. The interdependence arising from the almost universal opening up of the market economy should encourage development partners to show some realism in order to build new relationships of cooperation. Towards that end, Guinea had, with the support of its bilateral and multilateral partners, embarked in recent years on a major restructuring and diversification of its economy. That effort, which had the support of the population, was beginning to yield tangible results.

64. Guinea pinned considerable hope on the forthcoming special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the decisions taken by major international conferences, whose outcomes would determine, to a large extent, the implementation of the agenda for development. That session would establish a new partnership for progress and development among the United Nations, developed countries and developing countries which would guarantee international peace and security.

65. Mr. ACEMAH (Uganda) endorsed the statement made by the representative of Costa Rica on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. By adopting the Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order at its Sixth Special Session, held in 1974, the General Assembly had acknowledged that the current international economic system perpetuated inequality. As far back as 1950, the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) had argued that the international economic system was biased in favour of the industrialized States and worked against the development interests of the countries of the South, whose dependency on the North would only be aggravated by economic liberalization.

66. The international community, which seemed to have abandoned the commitments it had entered into in 1974, should remember those self-evident truths and, instead of dismissing as utopian the consensus reached at the Sixth Special Session of the General Assembly, should draw inspiration from the principles set forth in resolutions 3201 (S-VI) and 3202 (S-VI). The challenge facing the international community today was how to muster the necessary political will to undertake a profound transformation of the basic perceptions, values and institutional structures of the modern world. The choices to be made were too important to be left entirely to Governments. Therefore, other development actors, including ordinary people, must be involved.

67. Poverty could never be stamped out so long as international economic relations were governed by principles other than justice and equity. Pope John Paul II had observed, in his address before the General Assembly on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, that the transcendent spiritual dimension of the human experience could never be ignored without harming the cause of man and the cause of human freedom. That was why the international community should once again take up the principles underlying the Declaration on the new international economic order and once again give the Group of 77 the leadership role in efforts to renew the North-South dialogue.

68. Mr. DE MOURA (Brazil), speaking on behalf of the States members of the Common Market of the Southern Cone (MERCOSUR), as well as Bolivia and Chile, said that the agenda for development should reaffirm the role of the United Nations in the field of development at a time when there were pressures, especially for budgetary cuts, so as to concentrate the work of the United Nations on matters relating to peacekeeping and international security.

69. The agenda for development must be the instrument of transition between the cycle of global conferences on development held during the first half of the 1990s and the current cycle of institutional reforms, which affected not only the United Nations systems but also the Bretton Woods institutions. Such reforms could not be based exclusively on a strategy of budgetary cuts. On the

contrary, they must serve as a means for the implementation of the international commitments on development.

70. Many delegations were somewhat frustrated with the results of the negotiations in the Ad Hoc Working Group. Some felt that chapters I and II did not fully reflect the commitments made at the major international conferences, while others felt that chapter III gave a minimalist treatment to institutional reforms. Since such frustrations were inevitable in any negotiation process, it would not be appropriate to reopen paragraphs that had already been accepted or to begin new negotiations on whole chapters. Since only 28 of the document's 250 paragraphs were still pending, the Ad Hoc Working Group must move forward in the negotiations so as to finish its work by early 1997.

71. Once the negotiations had been concluded, the General Assembly should adopt the agenda for development at a special event that gave it the widest possible coverage and encouraged participation at the highest level of representatives of the Bretton Woods institutions. In that connection, the delegations of the MERCOSUR member countries, Bolivia and Chile endorsed the proposal put forward by the delegation of Belize.

72. The follow-up of the agenda for development should give equal importance to substantive and institutional issues. The former should take into account existing mechanisms, including mechanisms for integrated follow-up, so as to avoid any duplication of tasks. The follow-up of institutional commitments should be balanced and cover not only United Nations agencies but also the Bretton Woods institutions.

73. Mr. KHAN (Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) welcomed the constructive and effective debates on the renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership, and on the agenda for development. Should a similar spirit of efficiency govern the discussions of the Ad Hoc Working Group, its negotiations would soon be concluded. Indeed, that process should be concluded soon otherwise, as the representative of India had noted, the adoption of the agenda for development might be overshadowed by the holding, in June 1997, of the special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21. It was heartening to note that all delegations, including the United States delegation, gave top priority to reaching an agreement on a text, two thirds of which had already been accepted.

74. It was crucial for the negotiations to be successful because the agenda for development constituted the instrument through which the United Nations could take into account the current trend towards the globalization of the world economy and the multidimensional nature of development, by involving all the actors and partners in that process.

75. All the speakers had stressed that the agenda for development should permit the comprehensive implementation of the objectives of the major recent international conferences. That implied ties of cooperation between the United Nations system and the relevant ministries of Member States' Governments. While chapters I and II of the agenda for development helped to redefine the role of

the United Nations in the development process, the institutional aspects now needed to be developed.

76. The link between the renewal of the dialogue on strengthening international economic cooperation for development through partnership and the adoption of the agenda for development was recognized not only within the United Nations but also by various other international bodies such as the Group of Seven and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries. On the whole, delegations had agreed to the dates for the holding of that dialogue proposed by the Secretary-General, who would do his utmost to ensure its success.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.